

Welcome home 1BCT advanced party

See story and photos in the March 13 Frontline

THE FRONTLINE

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**Soldiers, Families
head to intramural
championships,
See story page 9B**

Vol. 43, Issue 9

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March 6, 2008



**Installation,
units celebrate
Black History
Month,
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**Soldiers, Families
Ask the Judge, *Is
Bankruptcy for me?*
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**Stewart-
Hunter hosts
76th IBCT
Family Day,
See Page 1B**



America, in your time of need—send me!



Jimmy McSalters

More than 10, 000 Soldiers and spectators packed Cottrell Field as Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody, and numerous other guests attended the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Pass and Review, and subsequent Family Day at Fort Stewart, March 1. See stories on Page 3A, and 1B.

Hawr Rajab sees significant improvements

Sgt. Michael Paredes
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – With security improving in Hawr Rajab, stores and schools are reopening

See **PROGRESS**

and a number of programs are revitalizing a community once on the brink of chaos.

In November 2007, al-Qaeda launched their last well-coordinated offensives into Hawr Rajab, killing a total of 12 members of the Sons of Iraq and wounding eight.

In the same firefight, two Iraqi army sol-

diers were killed and another nine wounded; four U.S. Soldiers were injured in the attacks. When the insurgents attacked, the Sons of Iraq program in the region was still in its infancy, but the members were not deterred.

With the assistance of Coalition Forces

and IA Soldiers, residents began to reclaim their community and insurgents not killed or captured were forced to flee.

As rebuilding of the rural farming area began, community leaders ramped up efforts to re-establish ties with the Government of Iraq.

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General Cody visits the Marne homefront



Sgt. Tanya Polk

Gen. Richard Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, awards Pvt. Sonji Brown, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, her first coin at Fort Stewart's Main Post Chapel, Feb. 29. Cody held an open forum for Marne Soldiers and Family members and addressed questions and concerns about the Division's current deployment. See story Page 7A.

Marne team wins Army safety award

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

The 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield were presented the Department of the Army Composite Risk Management Safety Award by the commander of Forces Command, Gen. Charles Campbell, in a ceremony held in the Main Post Chapel, Feb. 28.

"You attach value to our human capital," Campbell told the Soldiers and Family members filling the

chapel's main sanctuary and two adjoining rooms.

Distinguished guests included Sarah Lynch, Linda Cardon, Stewart-Hunter garrison commander, Col. Todd Buchs, and 3rd Inf. Div. rear detachment commander and command sergeant major, Lt. Col. Paul B. Gale and Command Sgt. Maj. MacArthur Dixon.

Safety has been a major focus of 3rd Inf. Div. commander, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, since he assumed command, June 13, 2006.

See **AWARD**

Page 2A

Stewart-Hunter kicks off 2008 AER campaign

Special to the Frontline

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Durr kicked off the installation's Army Emergency Relief campaign, March 3 at the installation's Soldier and Family Assistance Center.

Durr opened the campaign by ceremoniously submitting the first donation toward the installation's goal of raising \$150,000 by May 15.

Last year's goal was set at \$125,000, but Stewart-Hunter raised more than \$300,000 at the installation; however, more than \$3 million in loans and

grants was given from the installation.

While active duty Soldiers receive the bulk of AER assistance, help is provided to retired Soldiers, or their widows, widowers or orphans.

AER also provides education scholarships that provide financial support for both military dependent children and spouses.

In addition to contributions received during the AER campaign, funds are raised through repayment of interest-free loans, income from investments, and unsolicited contributions from individuals.

See **AER**

Page 8A

Marne 6 Sends

Marne partnership helps build stronger Iraq

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

These days, everything we do is about partnership – we conduct operations with the Iraqi Security Forces, our Soldiers secure power lines so the Ministry of Electricity can fix them, and we work hand in hand with the Iraqi people to develop governance at the local level.

But this year, when approximately nine million religious pilgrims marched the 45 kilometers from Baghdad to Karbala to commemorate the Shia Muslim holiday, Arba'een, it was the ISF who made the march not only safe but the most successful Arba'een celebration in five years.

Arba'een represents the finale of the Ashura commemoration – it marks the 40th

day after the Iman Hussein was killed in Karbala during the seventh century. Large-scale public celebrations were banned in Iraq under Saddam Hussein but resumed in 2003 following the U.S. invasion.

Flying over the pilgrimage route by helicopter, I saw the millions of Iraqis walking south – they were secured by their own people who even had the thought to construct rest tents and water stations along the route. For the first time in five years, the pilgrims were allowed to carry banners and flags – a gesture from the ISF showing the people the safety of the environment.



The most important aspect of this year's Arba'een celebration was that the Coalition Forces were spectators – Iraqis were securing other Iraqis in order for the people to celebrate their religious freedoms.

During the celebration over 39,000 ISF manned checkpoints, secured routes, and collected intelligence. Around the holy city, Karbala, the ISF established 80 checkpoints alone to screen pilgrims for bombs and weapons. And this year was the first Arba'een since 2003 without a single fatal act in the Karbala province. Also, more females participated this year

than during the previous five years.

Our 4th Brigade Combat Team – the Vanguard – were ready to assist the ISF with intelligence and logistical support, but they predominately conducted the operations on their own. They conducted all the planning and wrote all the consequence management plans themselves.

The millions of pilgrims safely marched to Karbala without disturbance or fear. In fact, they were joyous and peaceful.

I feel honored to serve alongside the ISF who are growing more capable and confident everyday. The ISF are Iraq's heroes – their casualty rates are three times the Coalition Forces – they are truly men of courage, building a strong and independent Iraq for a better tomorrow.

Rock of the Marne!

AWARD

From Page 1A

By using the Composite Risk Management process to identify weaknesses in the old safety program, the fatal accident rate for the Division and Fort Stewart has been reduced by 70 percent.

Proactive measures taken to improve overall safety include focusing on motorcycle safety with the addition of a motorcycle simulator located at the installation safety office (157 Gary Owen St.), removing trees along "The Green Tunnel," highways 144 and 119 that pass through the base, and renovating an on-post facility, now Rocky's Sports Bar and Grill, where off-duty Soldiers can drink without driving, play pool and video games or watch a wide-screen TV.

"Everywhere I go, Soldiers are deployed, Soldiers are getting ready to deploy or Soldiers are returning from deployments," Campbell said, explaining the "mitigated risks" involved with being a Soldier or Family member, which he commended Stewart-Hunter Soldiers and Families for dealing with so well.

Campbell also commended 3rd Inf. Div. and Stewart-Hunter for having "morally engaged" leaders who continuously perform risk assessments. Leaders' commitment to safety standards influence the attitudes of their Soldiers to adhere to safety standards, he said.

He reminded them, the "essence" of a Soldier is "discipline," and noted the safety record they've achieved is evidence of their success as morally engaged leaders.

"There is a difference between intelligence and wisdom. A lot of people are highly intelligent but not so many that are wise," Campbell said, explaining that intelligence is merely the accumulation of knowledge, but wisdom is having the understanding to use knowledge effectively.

Campbell congratulated Stewart-Hunter leaders, Soldiers and Family members for making wise decisions and earning the Department of the Army Composite Risk Safety Award.



Jimmy McSallers

FORSCOM commander, Gen. Charles Campbell presents the Department of the Army Composite Risk Management Safety Award to 3rd Inf. Div. rear detachment commander and command sergeant major, Lt. Col. Paul B. Gale, and Command Sgt. Maj. MacArthur Dixon, respectively, Feb. 28, at the Main Post Chapel.

Don't drink, drive on St Patrick's Day, ever

Courtesy of NHTSA

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield safety encourages Soldiers and Family members to take care Saint Patrick's Day weekend, and provide warning from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration regarding drinking and driving.

For many Americans, St. Patrick's Day has become a popular night out to celebrate with friends and Family. Unfortunately, due to the large volume of impaired drivers, the night out has also become very dangerous.

During St. Patrick's Day 2006, nearly half, 44 percent of the 105 drivers and motorcyclists involved in the fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content of .08 or above, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, www.nhtsa.dot.gov. This limit is illegal in all states. Sixty-three percent of those impaired drivers and motorcyclists with the BAC of .08 and higher died in a crash.

Whether meeting a few friends at the local pub after work or attending the St. Patrick's Day parade, if you plan on drinking alcohol, please don't drive.

Drunk driving prevention

Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe and festive holiday without jeopardizing his or her life and the lives of the others who may be on the road.

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or Family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely; Use your chain of command, or call staff duty; If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement; and remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take his keys and help him make other arrangements to get to where he is going safely.

Impaired driving is deadly

Too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. Impaired driving is no accident—nor is it a victimless crime. In 2006, 42,642 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Out of that number 13,470 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at

least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

The tragedies and costs from driving impaired do not just end at the potential death and injury caused by impaired drivers. Driving or riding a motorcycle while impaired is not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be significant.

• Drunk driving violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost wages due to time off from work. Refusing to take a sobriety test in many jurisdictions may result in the loss of your license on the spot and the impoundment of your vehicle; not to mention the added embarrassment, humiliation, and consequences after informing family, friends and employers.

• Please remember that friends don't let friends drive drunk. Designate your sober driver before the St. Patrick's Day parties begin. For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

Moments in Marne history: Recognizing women's contributions

Sasha McBrayer
Fort Stewart Museum

Military service women quite literally march into Women's History Month. In 2006 over 200,000 women were on active duty status in the modern military, making up about 14.4 percent of our active-duty servicemembers, and more than 63,000 serve with the Guard and Reserve Forces - more than 14 percent. Today more than 90 percent of all career fields in the armed forces are open to women.

As of this week in March 2007, we owe a debt of gratitude to six 3rd Infantry Division women who gave their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are:

- 1st Lt. Ashley Huff, 3rd Platoon, 549th MP Company, who hailed from Belle Mead, N.J., who died Sept. 19, 2006.
- Sgt. Regina Reali from Fresno, Calif. of the Army Reserve's 351st Civil Affairs Command, who died Dec. 23, 2005.
- Sgt. Julia Atkins from Bossier City, LA. of 720th MP Battalion, 89th MP Brigade (10 Dec. 2005)
- Pfc. Sam Huff, 504th MP Battalion, 42nd MP Brigade, from Tucson, Ariz., who died April 15, 2005.
- Spc. Adriana Salem, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, Division Support Command, of Elk Grove Village, Ill. She died March 4, 2005.
- Spc. Aliena Ramirez-Gonzalez, 3rd Brigade Troop

Battalion, of Hormigueros, Puerto Rico, who died April 15, 2003.

Women's taking important roles in the armed forces, however, is not something new. Over the course of March we will pay tribute to these historical heroes by highlighting several outstanding women's groups, the first of which is the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

On August 12, 1918, during WWI, Opha Mae Johnson was the first of 305 women accepted for duty in the Marine Corps Reserve. These women took the places of men in order to free them to go to the front. USMCWR's enjoyed the same payment as male officers and enlisted men with no dependants. There were many different jobs available for these female Reservists, but they were not allowed to fight overseas.

Since the addition of Johnson as the first female Marine, the Corps has had many exciting milestones.

- 1943, Colonel Ruth Cheney Streeter, first Director of Women Marine Reservists
- 1943, Capt. Anne Lentz, first commissioned officer
- 1943, Private Lucille McClarren, first enlisted woman
- 1945, first detachment of women Marines arrives in Hawaii for duty
- 1948, Colonel. Katherine A. Towle first Director of Women Marines
- 1961, the first woman Marine is promoted to sergeant

major (E-9).

- 1965, the Marine Corps assigns the first woman to attaché duty. Later, she is the first woman Marine to serve under hostile fire.
- 1978, Colonel Margaret A. Brewer was the first woman Marine general officer
- 1979, the Marine Corps assigns women as embassy guards.
- 1985, Colonel Gail M. Reals, the first woman selected by a board of general officers to be advanced to brigadier general
- 1992, Brigadier Gen. Carol A. Mutter assumed command of the 3d Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, the first woman to command a Fleet Marine Force unit at the flag level
- 1993, 2nd Lt. Sarah Deal became the first woman Marine selected for Naval aviation training
- 1993, The Marine Corps opens pilot positions to women.
- 1994, Brigadier Gen. Mutter became the first woman major general in the Marine Corps and the senior woman on active duty in the armed services
- 1995, the first female Marine pilot pins on Naval flight wings.
- 1996, Lieutenant Gen. Mutter became the first woman Marine and the second woman in the history of the armed services to wear three stars

The timeline from the Women Marines Association Web site www.womenmarines.org/history.php.



Pat Young

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniel troops the line with Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, 1st Army Division East commander; and Col. Courtney Carr, 76th IBCT commander during a Pass and Review ceremony held at Cottrell Field, March 1 on Fort Stewart.

Nighthawks Pass and Review, prepare to deploy



Pat Young

Above: Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Richard Cody, congratulates the 76th IBCT and thanks them for their commitment that demonstrates an attitude of “America, in your time of need - send me.”



Jim Jeffcoat

Units from the 76th IBCT marched south on Coe St. to Donovan Field, March 1, to join their waiting Families and share quality time with them prior to deploying to Iraq. See the Family Day story on Page 1B.

Pat Young
Managing Editor

Dawn Johnston, traveling with her daughter, son, father, and sister, traveled more than 11 hours from Evansville, Ind. to Fort Stewart to show their love and support for their deploying Soldier.

Johnston's quest to see her husband, Spc. Kevin Johnston, 163rd Field Artillery, was shared by nearly 7,000 Family members who wanted to say goodbye to their warriors from the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Exhibiting outstanding professionalism, the units of the 76th stood tall for the thousands in attendance at the Pass and Review ceremony. The units on the field included the 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry; 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry; 1st Battalion 293rd Infantry; 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery Regiment; Battery A, 2nd Battalion 150th FA, and 38th Marching Band.

Among those who bused, drove, and flew down to share precious moments with the unit who finished training at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, were a number of special guests that included Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels; United States Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody; Major Gen. Jay Hood, commander for 1st Army Division East; and Indiana Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Martin Umbarger.

Daniels, Cody, Umbarger and Hood, each commented on the success of the unit in completing training at Stewart and their readiness to deploy to Iraq.

Daniels said visiting the Soldiers at Stewart was particularly special to him as he was visiting the home of the Marne Division, a unit his grandfather served in World War I, and later an uncle with, during World War II.

He said he was proud of the Hoosier Soldiers, who demonstrat-

ed outstanding values, dedication, and sacrifice, leaving their work and Families, and answering the nation's call to duty.

Cody echoed Daniel's comments and noted of the 76th, that they were saying, "America, in your time of need – send me!"

Hood said the 76th was trained, manned, and equipped to handle the mission, receiving training on team work, weapons systems, combat life saving, Iraqi language and culture; and reaction training to improvised explosive devices and ambushes.

The leader's sentiments were shared by the Families who attended the ceremony.

Dawn Johnston said she was very proud of her husband.

"He is a wonderful person, a great husband, father, brother," she said. "He loves what he's doing (being a Soldier)."



Pat Young

Family members of Spc. Joshua VanLaere, Co. F, 1/293rd Inf., display a large sign with their Soldier's name on it. They cheer for their warrior and other Soldiers of Indiana National Guard's 76th IBCT, who completed training at Fort Stewart in their preparation to deploy to Iraq.

Kalsu troops celebrate African American heritage

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – “Gas! Gas! Gas!” For the contribution of one black American inventor last century, that familiar call might not echo through Army bases as Soldiers train with gas masks against chemical weapons attack.

Similarly, the blood bank system, responsible for saving countless lives on the battlefield since World War II, was the work of an African American, Frederick McKinley Jones.

On Feb. 21, Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Kalsu came together to celebrate these and the other significant contributions made by African Americans during a Black History Month program.

Guest speaker Lt. Col. Kevin R. Stevenson, behavioral health officer, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, walked the audience through the wide-ranging contributions African Americans have made to American society. During a slide show presentation, Stevenson also illustrated the direct impact some of these contributions have had on today’s Army.

Clean, dry laundry in 24 hours. A dust pan used to get dirt off the floor. A mop used to remove the muck in the office hallway. All of these items – well known, but taken for granted among the privates who use them most - would not have been possible if not for the contributions of black Americans in the past.

Like the “Safety Hood and Smoke Protector” gas mask invented by Garrett A. Morgan in 1912, the clothes dryer (George T. Sampson), the dustpan (Lloyd P. Ray), and the mechanically-replaceable clamp mop (Thomas W. Stewart) are fixtures in the modern Army’s inventory.

But while much of the focus of the presentation was on past accomplishments, Stevenson, a Napoleonville, La., native, stressed that black Americans continue to make vital contributions to the country and military.

The event highlighted the struggles blacks had to overcome in the past, as well as how those struggles created strong bonds in the community.

“History is important to us,” said Capt. Christee Cuttino,

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. personnel office.

“It shows how far we’ve come,” she said.

Although the focus was on black Americans, Cuttino, of New Britain, Conn., said it is important for all people to come out and support events such as this and other ethnic vigils celebrated by the Army.

“Regardless of race, creed, color or background, we have all experienced struggles in life,” Cuttino said.

A major theme throughout the presentation was explaining how overcoming past struggles could help those experiencing hardships today.

One way to help overcome and prosper is by finding positive role models from both past and present, Stevenson said. He credited much of his accomplishments in life to the guidance of his family, who taught him he could do anything he put his mind to. His mother nurtured him, his younger brother encouraged him in sports, and his godparents, who were both teachers, showed him the importance of education.

Stevenson said people should look for role models who have integrity and live a life that exemplifies that integrity.

“A person’s character will take them further than anything else,” he said.

Other individuals presented their thoughts and praise for the contributions of black Americans. Contributions came

in the form of words, songs, traditional dances, poetry and skits.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all participants were honored with a certificate of appreciation from Col. Thomas James, commander, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., for sharing their experiences.



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Capt. Christee Cuttino, HHC, 703rd BSB, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., personnel office, sings a spiritual song to the audience at the African American/Black History Month program on FOB Kalsu, Feb. 21

Attend reunion/reintegration classes

Get the latest information about redeployment and reintegration

Please contact your unit LNO or FRSA as soon as possible to sign your children up for the “Battle Mind for Children” classes. Free child care is available.

For more information call ACS
Bess Stone at 767-1297.



Q-West highlights Black History Month

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

QAIYARA, Iraq – Soldiers and civilians at Forward Operating Base Q-West honored Black History Month, Feb. 25 with this year’s theme, “The Evolution of Black History: Educate, Enlighten, Entertain.”

Black History Month has a rich heritage beginning with Carter G. Woodson. While working in a coal mine he was inspired by the historical stories of black Civil War veterans that could not be found in history books. Upon completion of his PhD in History, Woodson became a professor at Howard University. It was there he co-founded and financed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History whose goal was to publish and research projects on black history. In 1926, Woodson came up with Negro History Week, a week dedicated to celebrating the achievements of blacks. He chose the second week in February that covered both Lincoln and Frederick Douglass’ birthdays. In 1976, Negro History Week became Black History Month.

The program started out with the National Anthem followed by “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” a song the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People adopted as “The Negro National Anthem” in 1919.

The show was followed by some “Who am I?” black history trivia. Participants stood up and announced several facts about the character they portrayed. Characters included such notable black personas as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson and Shirley Chisholm.

The program also showcased black contributions to song, dance and fashion from the earliest forms of African culture to the millennium. Participants dressed up as some of the greatest black entertainers of all time and sang and danced to their songs including The Temptations, James Brown and The Supremes.

The guest speaker of the night was Lt. Col. Douglas M. McBride, Jr., commander for the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade. He spoke of the contributions that blacks have given to America and the world - from the year 1619 when the first black slaves were brought to America to W. E. B. Dubois, the civil rights leader and co-founder of NAACP to Senator Barack Obama, the African-American current front runner on the Democratic Presidential ballot

with a real opportunity to win the highest office in the country of the most powerful nation in the world, said McBride.

“That is remarkable growth and evolution that would make our forefathers stand up cheer and a true testament to the greatness of an America that is finally arriving and realizing the power in America is the sum of all its’ diverse parts,” said McBride. “An America that understands that ‘United we stand... divided we fall!’”

“Our Army and our nation have successfully accomplished what other nations still struggle to realize... thanks to the leadership, perseverance, and an incredible example set by both black and white leaders through our history,” said McBride. “The solidarity of our Army gives the people of Iraq and Afghanistan hope. We stand for unity of purpose, despite coming from diverse backgrounds and beliefs. We stand for tolerance of those who are different from us. For anyone who has heard their personal call to duty, they will relate to what Ralph Abernathy said about his own call to duty in the civil rights movement. ‘I don’t know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.’”

Marne Voices Speak Out

The 3rd Inf. Div. is beginning to re-deploy. What do you think Soldiers should see or do when they return?

““Make immediate contact with Family, especially children.”

Spc. Justin Lyles
554th Eng. Bn.



“Rest – mentally and physically.”

Spc. John Adkins
Co. B, 1/151st Inf. Reg.



“I think they should try to see as much of their Family as they can.”

Cliff Fleming
Retired Army



“Go snowboarding at Lake Tahoe.”

Pfc. Travis Langbehn
MRC

“They should spend time with Family. Get re-acquainted.”

Sgt. 1st Class John Thompson
Co. D, 1/151st Inf. Reg.



““Reconnect with Family and friends – in that order..”

Sue Kaiser
Family Member



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Write a letter to the editor!

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Courtesy Photo

Soldiers of Troop B, 5/7 Cav. Regt. help unearth six large barrels from a farmer’s barn in the southern Arab Jabour region, Feb. 28.

Large cache found in barn

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – An observant Iraqi citizen contributed to a significant cache find in southern Arab Jabour, Feb. 28.

The man, who was driven from his home by al-Qaeda in Iraq, recently returned to the area, thanks to the efforts of Soldiers of the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and Sons of Iraq.

The partnership between the two groups has resulted in the ousting of AQI from the area.

The man, whose son is a member of the SoI, located the cache while removing debris from his barn. He noticed discoloration in the dirt and reported his find to Soldiers of Troop B, 5/7th Cav. Regt., at Patrol Base Meade.

First Lt. Noah Walker, 1st platoon, platoon leader, Troop B, was there when the cache was unearthed. After digging approximately five feet, Soldiers and local volunteers discovered six 55-gallon drums.

Using a nearby resident’s tractor, the barrels were pulled from the ground.

Inside, Walker, a native of Kaaawa, Hawaii, said they discovered 50 rocket-propelled grenade warheads, an RPG launcher, 200 rounds of 37 mm ammunition, 500 rounds of 23 mm ammunition and 2,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition among other munitions.

“It has been great for the locals and community,” Walker said of the find and the cooperation between residents and Soldiers that led to it. “If we can secure where the people live and sleep, it helps build up trust.”

So far that trust has helped seriously degrade AQI resources in the area, Walker said.

He said at one point, locals pointed out 13 improvised explosive devices over a one-kilometer stretch of road, marking their locations to allow Coalition forces to safely remove the threats.

Besides providing for the safety of the community, the man was also compensated for his find. In a show of good will, the man split the reward with the other men who helped remove the barrels and the man who loaned the tractor.

Soldiers conduct air assault, detain 2

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq - Soldiers conducted a nighttime air assault mission in Kanasa, a small village south of Salmon Pak, Feb. 28.

The Soldiers, assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, cleared six houses and detained two individuals for questioning.

"The main purpose of this mission was to capture or kill any enemy combatants we came across and continue to secure the area around (Combat Outpost) Carver,"

said 1st Lt. Ivan Eno, platoon leader for 2nd Squad, Company B. "Overall, I think it went well. All of our guys, right down to the lowest level, understood our intent and scheme and executed it accordingly."

The area south of Salman Pak had been an extremist safe haven. It is sparsely populated and has many places to hide or seek refuge.

"There are a lot of abandoned houses and farms down there for extremists to take refuge in," Eno said. "The area is mainly marshy farmland and there haven't been any Sons of Iraq or Coalition Forces down there."

Weapons cache destroyed in Arab Jabour

Special to the Frontline
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – A large weapons cache was found and destroyed, Feb. 22, in southern Arab Jabour.

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, located the cache while conducting operations along a route in Arab Jabour.

The cache consisted of 166 57 mm mortars, six of which were attached to com-

mand wire, 18 liters of homemade explosives and one DSHKA heavy machine gun.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called in to investigate and dispose of the cache via a controlled detonation.

"This is the seventh cache we've found this week in the area," said Company C executive officer, 1st Lt. Timothy James Williams.

Williams, a native of Palm Bay, Fla., said that by reducing the amount of caches, his Soldiers are drying up the well from which insurgents can draw weapons to fight if they try to return to the area.

Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Lifeguards Wanted

Now Hiring! Summer Lifeguard Positions available at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. First cut-off for applications is March 8th.
Call 912-767-3034 or 315-5078 for more information.

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Spouse Appreciation Day

8 Mar – 4-8 p.m., Marne Lanes
Spouses can receive one free game and free shoe rental.767-4866

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Mardi Gras Teen Dance

7 Mar – 7-10 p.m., FS Youth Center
Come dressed in your Mardi Gras attire and dance your heart out.
There is no cost to attend. Open to grades 8-12. 767-4491

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Family Fun Ride and Bicycle Safety Checks

8 Mar – 12 p.m., Tominac Fitness Center
Come get a free bicycle safety check and get your bike ready for spring.
A group bike ride will also be held at 1 p.m. 315-2019

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CYS Camp Expo

11 Mar – 6- 8 p.m., Club Stewart
Come find out what summer camps and youth programs are available for summer.
767-6533

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CYS Transition Counselor Institute Workshop

11-12 Mar – 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Club Stewart
Workshop provides school counselors valuable info on how to support military students when transitioning between schools. 767-6533 or register online at www.militarychild.org.

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GEICO-Ohio Wesleyan University Collegiate Golf Tournament

13-15 Mar – Hunter Golf Club
Come play in the College-Am portion of the tournament. The College-Am is a four person scramble with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun on 13 Mar. \$65 entry fee covers green fees, driving range balls, tournament fee, lunch, post tournament social, prizes, golf car fee, and the opportunity to play with a player slated for PGA tour status.
Register by 12 Mar. 315-9115

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The Great MWR Post-Wide Yard Sale

26 Apr- 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Club Stewart Parking Lot, Squires Sports Complex Parking lot at HAAF & Homes Throughout Post Housing at FS and HAAF
Spaces are available at the Club Stewart and Squires Sports Complex locations for \$5 a space. Those living in post housing may participate at no cost, but registration is required. Anyone from Active Duty Military, Family members, National Guard, Reserves, retirees & DA civilians are eligible to sell items. The sale is open to the public. All items are eligible to be sold, except for weapons, food, and retail items, such as, Avon, Tupperware, etc. Spots are limited, so reserve your space today! Registration deadline is 22 Apr. 767-8238 at FS and 315-5078 at HAAF

Ask the Judge: *Is Bankruptcy right for me?*

Capt. Daniel D'Isidoro
Legal Affairs

Most military personnel and their Families handle their financial affairs in a responsible and timely manner. Those that have problems usually seek timely assistance from financial counselors, such as those provided by the Army Community Services.

ACS is located at 191 Lindquist Road (building 86) at Fort Stewart and may be contacted at 767-5058/5059. Soldiers can apply for and receive an Army Emergency Relief interest-free loan, or in extreme cases a grant. Occasionally, however, due to a catastrophic event, unforeseen circumstances, or difficulties in money management an individual will be so far in debt that bankruptcy becomes the only solution.

Q: What is bankruptcy?

A: Bankruptcy is a federal court legal proceeding available to people who owe creditors a large amount of money and are unable to make the overwhelming payments. It provides individuals with a way to eliminate their debts or repay them under the protection of the bankruptcy court. However, when filing for bankruptcy the individual must have a proper purpose and act in good faith. The court will not allow individuals to use bankruptcy in a deceptive manner to avoid their financial responsibilities.

Some debts are not dischargeable in bankruptcy, including but not limited to, judgments for intentional torts, debts incurred through fraud, student loans, child support obligations, alimony, and certain tax obligations. In some instances, an individual's debt to equity ratio may not be high enough, such that he may not qualify for bankruptcy and will be required to try to work out payment arrangements.

Q: What happens when I file?

A: The goal of bankruptcy is to give the debtor a "fresh start." In general, the debtor is able to retain much of his or her personal property, and creditors are severely restricted in what and how much they can collect.

Once an individual files for bankruptcy, his or her creditors must stop collection efforts on all debts acquired up to the date of filing (this is known as the "automatic stay"). At this point, creditors are legally prohibited from continuing to call, bill or harass the individual about their debt.

Creditors are required to pursue collection of their claims in bankruptcy court. However, in some cases (not Chapter 13) creditors can still attempt to collect on debts that an individual acquires after filing for bankruptcy.

Q: What is pre-bankruptcy counseling and post-filing debtor education?

A: Before a person can file, they must get credit counseling from a government-approved organization within 180 days of filing. After a person files but before their debts are discharged, they must also take a pre-discharge debtor education course.

Only credit counseling organizations and debtor education course providers that have been approved by the U.S. Trustee Program may be used.

Check the approved list of credit counseling organizations at www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/ccde/cc_approved.htm, the approved list of pre-discharge debtor education providers at www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/ccde/de_approved.htm, or consult the bankruptcy clerk's office for the district where you file. Below is a list of two approved organizations:

- JCVision and Associates, Inc.
The Brantley Building
135 E. Martin Luther King, Suite C
Hinesville, GA 31313
877-4243
www.jcvision.com
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service
7505 Waters Avenue, Park South
Suite C-11
691-2227
www.cccsavannah.org

There are fees associated with pre-bankruptcy counseling and post-filing debtor education, typically between \$50 and \$100 each. However, if you are unable to pay the fee, you may seek a waiver from the organization. Once you have completed the required counseling, you must get a certificate as proof.

Q: What type of bankruptcy is for me?

A: There are two principal kinds of bankruptcy that an individual can file for: Chapter 7, often called "straight bankruptcy" or "liquidation"; and Chapter 13, often called "the wage-earner plan" or "reorganization."

In a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, the court directs that all of the individual's property, except for exempt property, be sold ("liquidated") and the money collected be used to pay off the individual's creditors.

In a Chapter 13 bankruptcy, the court sets up a 3-5 year payment plan for the individual to pay off creditors in part or in full. The individual makes payments to the court, and the court pays the creditors.

Q: What are the differences between Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy?

A: Chapter 13: The filing fee in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia is \$274.

Chapter 13 is the preferred method for most debtors who are wage-earners with a sufficiently stable income to make regular payments.

Under Chapter 13, all debts are combined, and the debtor advises the court how much of the total debt he is able to pay. The court will accept repayment percentages as low as ten percent of the total debt, though plans which propose repaying at least seventy percent are recommended.

The court discharges, or legally forgives, that portion which cannot be repaid, and the debtor begins making payments on the remainder.

These payments must be finished at the end of three years, though extensions can be granted in limited circumstances.

Under the 2005 amendments, the debtors must receive credit counseling from an approved nonprofit credit counseling agency before filing. The debtor has enormous flexibility in preparing his plan; the main factor is its workability.

The advantages to the debtor are many, and include the retention of unsecured property and the fact that one hundred percent pay backs may not be necessary. Another advantage to Chapter 13 is the mere filing of the petition stops all collection efforts by creditors.

- Secured creditors (those who have a lien on certain property), have limited remedies. The general rule is that if they do not accept the plan, they can only repossess a secured item for the present market value of the item.

The unpaid balance on the original contract or promissory note then becomes an unsecured debt.

Since the fair market value of most items drops drastically after the purchase, most secured creditors will probably accept the plan in the hope of getting a larger return.

The debtor even has a chance to retain secured property. Under the 2005 amendments to the bankruptcy code, secured creditors got some added protection, for example, if you purchased a vehicle shortly before filing bankruptcy.

- Automobiles purchased within 3 years, or any item of collateral purchased in the year immediately prior to the bankruptcy filing must be repaid in full under the plan. Alimony, child support, guaranteed student loans, and taxes cannot be discharged by a Chapter 13. If fewer than 70% of the plan payments were made, the debtor cannot re-file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy for 8 years.

- Conversion to Straight Bankruptcy - If the debtor fails to make his payment schedule or new financial disaster occurs, the court can, on its own motion, change the Chapter 13 debt - consolidation plan to a straight bankruptcy under Chapter 7.

The filing fee in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia for conversion from Chapter 13 to Chapter 7 is \$25.

- Chapter 7 (Straight Bankruptcy): The filing fee in the

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia is \$299. A Chapter 7 bankruptcy completely discharges all debts (except the non-dischargeable ones already referred to) listed in the inventory of creditors. This is extremely important. It is not uncommon to forget to list a potential creditor, which may not be included in the discharge and may still be able to pursue the debtor. The most common example of this is a VA guaranteed loan. The debtor lists the original mortgage, usually a bank, but fails to list the VA, which then pursues the debtor. All debts, real or potential, must be listed.

- Chapter 7 can be initiated in several ways. One is by order of a bankruptcy judge in a pending Chapter 13. Another is by the voluntary petition of the debtor. The debtor, however, must convince the court he is under severe financial distress. A mathematical "means test" has been put in place to determine whether a debtor qualifies. Disabled veterans whose debts were incurred during active duty get a fast pass to Chapter 7.

In a straight bankruptcy, title to all property passes to a court-appointed trustee, who liquidates all non-exempt property, and distributes the proceeds to creditors. Fortunately for the debtor, the federal rule on retaining personal items is very liberal.

It should be noted, however, that the law allows states to define more restrictive exemptions, and there is no general rule on how much the debtor can retain.

Federal law, or state law if the state has enacted one, determines what property the individual may retain. If the state has not passed more restrictive laws, the debtor, especially in a joint petition with the spouse, can usually retain the home, car, tools of trade, personal belongings, furniture and television. Once the discharge is granted, either under Chapter 7 or under Chapter 13 where fewer than 70% of the debts were paid, the debtor cannot file another Chapter 7 petition for eight years.

Q: Am I eligible for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy?

A: As Chapter 7 grants the debtor a complete discharge of all debts, there is a "means test" to determine whether the filing of chapter 7 is abusive. The court may dismiss a chapter 7 case filed by an individual whose debts are primarily consumer rather than business debts if the court finds that the granting of relief would be an abuse of chapter 7.

Q: Can ACS provide me with any financial counseling?

A: A Soldier or Family member should seek help through ACS when financial problems become apparent. Often, the financial counselor can help the debtor restructure obligations, manage the checkbook, and solve related problems.

One of the most important functions provided is education: teaching basic financial skills, explaining how to consolidate debts, making the debtor consumer conscious, and explaining how to improve credit reliability and reputation.

More specifically, ACS provides checking account maintenance, budget planning, debt liquidation, and acts as a consumer advocate. Most offices also maintain a library of resource materials and free information.

Q: What effect will bankruptcy have on my Army career?

A: While a bankruptcy discharge plan in itself does not trigger adverse action, Soldiers who find themselves in this position are in danger of administrative discharge because these delinquent obligations usually have come to the attention of the command.

An elimination board could conclude from the number and frequency of debts and the general inability to manage financial affairs, that the Soldier warrants discharge. Furthermore, a bad credit rating can cause a Soldier to lose his security clearance, which may affect his ability to perform his military job.

For more information on bankruptcy, call Fort Stewart's Legal Assistance Office (building 621) at 767-8809/8819 or Hunter's Legal Assistance Office (building 1154) at 352-511 or 352-5116 to discuss your particular situation.



Army Vice Chief of Staff visits 3rd Inf Div

'This is the finest Army that we've ever put... on the battlefield'

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

The Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army visited the Marne Division, Feb. 29 and March 1. Holding an open forum at Fort Stewart's Main Post Chapel, Gen. Richard Cody and his wife, Vicki, spoke of the current deployment and answered questions for 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers and their Family members.

"Together, they have taken on Army-level issues that are important to Soldiers and Families," said Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, as he introduced the 31st Vice Chief of Staff and his wife at the forum. "More importantly, they have championed solutions, especially at the Department of the Army level."

With more than 35 years in service, the Codys are committed to helping improve the quality of life for the Army Family.

"A lot of the incentives that we're seeing today, a lot of the new initiatives, a lot of the additional programs and services that we're seeing that are coming down from the Army are a direct result of the initiatives and the energy that General and Mrs. Cody were applying at the Army-level," Buchs said.

(Gen.) Cody said he and his wife have spent the last six years gathering information and feedback from Soldiers and Families at various duty stations to help make improvements.

"But most importantly to say 'thank you,'" said Cody. "This

nation of 300 million people is blessed to have Soldiers today and Family members that sacrifice so much to preserve the freedoms that this country has."

Cody first addressed one of the Families' of deployed Soldiers major concerns – 15-month tours. He explained that 15-month tours are necessary so that everyone has a fair advantage of dwell time between deployments. He said that the length of tours can decrease once the Army grows to the strength it needs.

Cody also provided reassurance and comfort to Family members as he detailed the improvements and successes their troops have made while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"They're (Soldiers) making such a positive difference in that part of the world," Cody said. "Fifty-five million people today are free. They don't know your husband by name, but they know the patch that he wears."

"I can't remember a time in history where so many people are dependent on so few," Cody said, referring to the Iraqi people and their need for the American troops.

The Vice Chief of Staff also explained that the Army has improved and will continue to improve the quality of life on Stewart-Hunter by constructing new facilities, expanding housing, improving child development centers and adding new chapels, just to name a few.

"The Army is focused on the Family and on the Soldier and on the community," Cody said.

The Codys feel they can relate to the stresses Family members endure as they too have experienced deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan; six deployments between their two children, both of whom are captains in the Army.

"I'm not walking in your shoes, but I'm walking in another pair of shoes," said Vicki to the Marne Families, "and I'm going down that same road as you. We're here to say that we understand, or we try to understand the stresses that you all have."

"Don't ever feel that you're alone," Vicki continued, "Across the board, every Army unit has been deployed at this point ... Nowadays everybody deploys."

She encouraged combat-experienced Families who are on their third and fourth deployments to help support new Army



Sgt. Tanya Polk

Gen. Richard Cody, 31st Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, speaks at Fort Stewart's Warriors' Walk, Feb. 29.

Families and provide them the comfort that they will need.

"You're such a valued resource for those young Families that are just starting out and you can remember what it was like to be a newlywed. We need you all, and your experience and your leadership to help with the younger generation," Vicki said.

Vicki's book "Your Soldier, Your Army, A Parents' Guide," was available to any Family who attended the forum. The book shares her experiences as an Army spouse and mother, with the intent to help Family members cope with the current war and other deployments.

After the forum, (Gen.) Cody visited Winn Army Community Hospital, wounded and healing Soldiers in the Warrior in Transition Unit, Warriors' Walk and fare welled Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as they embark on their rotation to Iraq.

"Everyone, all Americans need to be very, very proud of the Soldiers that are fighting this Global War on Terrorism," Cody said. "I know this for a fact, that this is the finest Army that we've ever put out on the battlefield."



Pat Young

Gen. Richard Cody speaks with 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers and Family members in an open forum at the Main Post Chapel, Feb. 29.

ACS helps Soldiers avoid fiscal hassles

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

A lengthy deployment may cause Soldiers and their Family members a lot of stress-related problems. And, according to Army Community Service Director, Donna Finney, “One of the biggest problems is money.”

“For the last 15 months, many of these (Soldiers and) Families have been receiving extra dollars in their paychecks, tax free and now all of a sudden that money is gone,” she said.

Often times extra money leads to large purchases, but Finney advises Soldiers to stop at Army Community Service upon their redeployment and invest their time into financial counseling before drowning their hard-earned money in a pool of debt.

“Each of us has one short life, no second chances,” Finney said. “Making a financial plan that includes those things you value - such as Family, education, security, or even a sailboat will enable you to reach those dreams. Good financial planning means you will have the money you need to meet your needs, have money in the bank to cover an emergency, and money in long term investments for future dreams.”

Though many Soldiers are returning home with extra cash, there are some Soldiers who come home to a hole in their wallet.

“We see a lot of financial problems after a deployment,” Finney said. “I think the most

important thing when you have more months than you have money is to come to ACS. Sometimes it’s better to catch the problem at an early stage so it doesn’t create a bigger problem.”

ACS, in compliance with the Army, can offer Soldiers with financial burdens a crutch to help them get back onto their feet. The Army Emergency Relief fund can issue Soldiers in need a loan or a grant, pending on their situation.

Additionally, ACS offers several classes and programs to help troops rid their financial problems. These classes include Budgeting Basics, Checkbook Management, Getting Out of Debt, Understanding Credit, Life Insurance, How to Buy a Car, How to Buy a House, Investments 101, Saving at the Commissary, Your Money and Your Honey (for newlyweds), Budgeting for Baby, Preparing for a PCS and Personal Money Management.

“I talked to a Soldier one time that ate Ramen noodles because he was trying to get out of his debt,” Finney said. “Now, that’s probably not healthy; you’re just going to trade the food bill for the doctor bill. We teach people how to make a spending plan.”

Finney said that ACS is also hiring more employees to help with financial counseling to ensure that there is enough staff available to meet all of the returning Soldiers and their Families’ needs.

Transitioning from a combat zone back to a

home-environment can take some getting used to, but 1st Lt. Bryan French, executive officer with the 24th Finance, advises Soldiers to adjust to their pay-decrease immediately.

“When Soldiers deploy they qualify for combat zone tax exemption; taxes (are not taken) out of their paycheck,” the deputy dispersing officer said. “They also will receive hostile fire and eminent dangers pay, so over the course of a month, that could add up to \$1,000 of extra pay that the servicemember is receiving while deployed. As soon as (Soldiers) leave the theatre of operations, all of these entitlements received while deployed will be stopped. (Returning Soldiers) really need to get in the mindset of a decrease in their monthly pay, anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a month.”

French said Soldiers should check their Leave and Earnings Statement once they return home to ensure they are no longer receiving the extra pay.

“Otherwise a debt will be put out against them and they will owe the government the money they were receiving when they weren’t due those entitlements,” he said.

Soldiers can expect their combat pay to stop when they return to home station, but essentially it is their own responsibility to ensure they are receiving the correct pay. The installation finance department can help assist Soldiers with any questions or financial problems they may have.

The returning troops can also expect an

additional check after they come home. The finance department will brief all Soldiers after they redeploy; a part of their 10-day reintegration process. During this briefing, Soldiers will fill out a travel voucher upon which they will receive an extra \$3.50 for every day spent in combat.

“Within a month (Soldiers) should receive a check back for their travel voucher; anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,000, depending on how long (the Soldier) was gone,” French said.

Some Soldiers invested their money into a program prior to deployment that helped them to make more money while deployed.

“The Savings Deposit Program is an exceptional program that is offered to Department of Defense servicemembers,” French said. “While you’re deployed, you can put up to \$10,000 into an account, and it will accrue interest tax-free.”

Soldiers can retrieve that money by logging on to My Pay or visiting the finance office within 90 days of their return.

“It will no longer accrue the interest that it once did while you were deployed,” French said.

The finance department is located in building 622 on Fort Stewart. For more information pertaining to finance, call 767-5605. ACS is located in building 86 on Stewart, near the Post Exchange. For more information, contact ACS at 767-5058.

“Let us help you get back to where you want to be,” Finney said.

ACS holds Army Family Team Building instructor training

Special to the Frontline

Seventeen students graduated from the Fort Stewart Army Family Team Building Instructor Training Course at Club Stewart last week. Participants spent three days learning facilitation skills and classroom management techniques. The course culminated with individual presentations and a graduation ceremony.

Graduates were Taneasha Egbo, Gabrielle Perry, Nora Alcaparras-Render, Talesh Nelson, Fayettea Sawyers, Helen Born, Kelly McKinnon, Yahayra Griffith, Shrea Andrews, Kelli Felde, Chasity Verdejo, Tora Wilson, Angelique Oliver, Vanita Southerland, Wanda Ruiz, Elizabeth Phipps, and Windsor Primous.

“I am really excited to have these instructors join our team,” said Kara Casto, Unit Services Coordinator for Army Community Service, and manages the AFTB program at Fort Stewart. “We have several new classes scheduled this summer, including AFTB for teens and a class in Spanish. We really want to make sure that we can provide information to all members of our Army Family. Deployments and unaccompanied assign-

ments can be difficult for Families. Understanding the Army, its culture, and its language can really make a difference in how you experience those separations.”

The volunteer instructors present classes not only to Family members but to Soldiers and civilians as well. Courses can be customized to meet a group’s needs. Popular offerings include Time Management, Communication for Leaders, and Military Customs and Courtesies. AFTB also develops special presentations such as the new Dogface Soldier for Families class offered monthly at the Fort Stewart Museum.

“The great thing about being an AFTB instructor is knowing that I am helping a Family gain knowledge to embrace our military lifestyle and thrive while their loved one is deployed,” said Kate Bobo, AFTB Volunteer Program Manager at Stewart. Bobo is a DA certified Master Trainer and has been involved in AFTB for three years. “AFTB is my Army Family, and their office is the first place I came when we got here. It’s a great way to meet people when you move to a new duty station, and a great way to build your support network.”

McKinnon, 16, is the first teen to complete the Instructor Training Course at Stewart. “I wanted to show other teenagers

that it’s okay to be involved in volunteer activities. I remember what it was like being in Army life without knowing what was going on. The language is different, and we didn’t have rank and things like that. AFTB is great because it teaches people to understand the military, and that can make their life much easier.”

Presenting to her peers is intimidating, said McKinnon, but she is ready for the challenge. “I’m a little nervous about teaching other teens, but I will have a mentor with me, and they will support me. I hope more teens will get involved and do this, too. AFTB is lots of fun.”

AFTB is a progressive and sequential training program designed to provide Army Families with the tools and information they need to succeed in military life. Classes at the first level include Chain of Command, Rank and Acronyms, Benefits and Entitlements, and Military and Community Resources.

The second and third levels focus on personal and leadership skills. For more information on available classes, contact Army Community Service. At Stewart, call 767-5058. At Hunter, call 315-6816.

AER

From Page 1A

AER goes a long way in helping the Soldiers and Families who can use the money for a variety of needs, including to pay for food, rent and utilities, emergency transportation and vehicle repair, and to cover personal needs if pay is delayed or stolen.

AER is a private nonprofit organization chartered in 1942 to help Soldiers take care of their own. Funds are provided in the form of interest-free loans, grants, or in a combination of the two.

Frederick Sledge, Stewart-Hunter Army Community Service AER coordina-

tor, said AER assistance is based on financial situation and the assistance process is a combined effort with ACS and the unit.


However, if a person is traveling, he or she can still seek assistance by finding the nearest AER contact or American Red Cross representative, (877)272-7337.

Sledge said individuals must have a military identification card, a power of attorney if their sponsor is deployed, and provide necessary documents. For further information, call 767-5058 at Stewart, or 315-6816 at Hunter.



Jimmy McSalters

Stewart-Hunter garrison Command Sgt. Maj Charles Durr assisted by Frederick Sledge, installation AER coordinator, makes the ceremonial first installation donation at the AER Kick-off, March 3 at the SFAC on Stewart.



3rd Infantry Division and
Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield
presents:

Women's History Month
Women's Art: Women's Vision"

March 26
Club Stewart Ballroom
1:30 to 3 p.m.

Honorable Nancy Aspinwall
Judge of the Probate Court,
Liberty County - Keynote Speaker

Holy Week

March 16-23

Protestant Services

March 20
Maudy Thursday Service held 7 p.m. at the Marne Chapel.

March 23
Easter Sunrise Service, held 7 a.m., at Marne Gardens (dress warm). The inclement weather plan is for the Main Post Chapel.

Catholic Services

March 20
Holy Thursday Mass held 7 p.m., at the Main Post Chapel

March 21
Good Friday Services held 7 p.m., at the Main Post Chapel.

March 22
Holy Saturday Mass, 7 p.m., at the Main Post Chapel, no 5 p.m. Vigil Mass.

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Get the latest in welcome home ceremonies

Welcome Home Ceremony information on redeploying units is available online at the Fort Stewart Homepage at www.stewart.army.mil/flighttrack. Dates and times are updated regularly. This will not publish a by-name list or returnees. Please contact your unit Family Readiness Group or unit rear detachment command to determine if your Soldier is redeploying with his unit. In addition to the ceremony time and location, there are instructions for the inclement weather location. The Web site also shares the four telephone numbers Family members and guests can check in order to stay up to date on ceremony times and locations. There is one number for out of state phone calls (1-877-305-2293) and three local numbers 767-0227, 767-8905, and 767-0235. The Web site and phone messages will be updated by the Installation Operations Center as new flight data is provided to them from the installation transportation office. Be advised that there is a potential for time changes and delays as the aircraft arrives closer to the projected time.

Hunter Tax Center hours limited March 11

The Marne Tax Center at Hunter is in building 1211 at the Legal Centerwill have limited services March 11 due to a general officer visit. Hours will be as follows: 8:30 to 11:45 p.m. Walk-ins and appointments; 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. for drop-offs or pick-ups only. The Hunter Legal Center will be closed at 2:30, March 11 as well.

Stewart's is at building 621, next to 2nd Brigade Headquarters, across from Cottrell Field. For more information, call 315-3675 or 767-7490.

State of the Garrison

The State of the Garrison briefing for all appropriated and non-appropriated fund (AF and NAF) federal employees and garrison Soldiers will be held 1 to 4 p.m., April 1 at Fort Stewart and 1 to 4 p.m., April 2 at Hunter Army Airfield. The garrison commander would like to take this opportunity to invite submission of topics for discussion from the workforce that they may feel are pertinent and/or beneficial to the entire Garrison. The Plans, Analysis and Integration Office will receive and consolidate all submitted topics and present them to the garrison commander for his review. If you have a topic for discussion, please contact Ms. Joyce Bailey at 767-6300 or joyce.bailey@stewart.army.mil.

Stewart

Official Mail and Distribution hours provided

The Fort Stewart Official Mail and Distribution Center is located in building 418-b has customer service counter hours of 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. If you have a mailbox or need to drop off your official mail and distribution, do so anytime between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the right

side door, Monday through Friday. Outgoing mail dropped off after 3 p.m. will not be processed until the following work day. At Hunter, the Official Mail and Distributions sub-center is in building 1212. The operating hours are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Scholarship applications available

The Fort Stewart Military Family Membership Scholarship Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under the auspices of The Officers' Spouses' Club that awards merit-based scholarships for deserving eligible Family members of all active, retired or deceased military of the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities. Applications for these scholarships are available at local high schools, ACS and the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. Family members looking to continue their education are encouraged to apply.

PWOC holds spring retreat

Protestant Women of the Chapel are having a spring retreat, "The Family Game Plan." All women are welcome to attend- even if you've never been to PWOC. Learn biblical strategies for developing your Family game plan. The event is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 15 at Club Stewart. The cost is \$15. There will be a continental breakfast and lunch provided. Child care will be provided for children six weeks to 12 years for those registered with CYS. For more information, call Tammy at 448-2296

Easter Egg Hunt at Hunter

Come out and participate in the Hunter Army Airfield Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt will be held at the Youth Center and Child Development Center fields at 10 a.m. and is open to ages 1-10. Following the hunt, there will be children's activities and an Easter bunny photo station until 2 p.m. For more information, call 315-5708.

Youth Ministry hosts 30-hour Famine

Fort Stewart Youth Ministry will host a 30-hour Famine at Vale Chapel March 28-29. The event will share fellowship, music and more. The event is sponsored by World Vision. For more information, call Theandrea Burgess at 877-4484.

Hunter

PWOC classes, meetings slated

Classes are available for children, ages three and older, including adult Bible study and RCIA classes, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Religious Education building. Call Pam Perez at 315-5440 for additional information. Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Call Valarie Moore at 920- 8519 for information.

Hunter Community Center moves

The Hunter Army Airfield Community Center, building 1286, will be closed today and is moving to building 1279. The relocation is happening because building 1286 will be renovated. Army Community Services, the leisure travel office, the pass and permit office, Family child care, and the school liaison office will move to the new location. The offices will reopen Friday.

For Army Emergency Relief, call 315-6816 or 767-5058. The Hunter Child and Youth Services registration office will also move to building 1279.

Family orientation, tour offered at Hunter

Take a tour of Hunter Army Airfield March 12, and learn about a variety of helpful programs for Families. The orientation will be held 9 a.m. to noon. The tour begins 1 to 2 p.m. Free child care is available upon request. For more information, call 315-6816.

Learn recipes for successful deployment

The 4th BCT Family Readiness Group and Army Community Services will co-host the Vanguard Recipes for a Successful Deployment seminar, March 8, at the Main Post Chapel.

The seminars, which start at 10 a.m., are on organization, quick healthy meals, MCEC, ACS, and a presentation and book signing by Shellie Vandevoorde. The seminars are open to anyone who would like to attend, but space is limited and they must reserve their spot. Child care is available. For more information or reservations, call 767-1749.

Be a Soldier for a day

4th BCT FRG hosts a Vanguard Combat Spouse Badge competition April 19 at Vanguard Field. Vanguard spouses past and present are invited to come out and be a Soldier for a day! Events will include Army Physical Fitness Training, litter carry, MOUT, Tug-of-War, Common Task Testing, and EST.

Following the competition, there will be a cook-out and an awards ceremony for all participants and their Families (children, cheerleaders, etc.). This competition is open only to Vanguard spouses. For more information, call 767-1749.

HSC Luncheon, spring fundraiser slated

Don't miss lunch with members of the Hunter Spouses' Club at 11 a.m., March 11 at Hunter Club for \$10.

Guests of the month include attendees from 603 Aviation Battalion and 260th Quartermaster Battalion, who will get \$1 off lunch and a complimentary prize drawing ticket.

If you wish to attend, contact Stephanie Pettit, 459-0411, by March 6 or make your on-line reservation at hunterspousesclub.org.



Stewart

Join Neighborhood Huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live.

Event dates are Friday for Isenhower Village; March 10 for Liberty Woods; March 14 for Southern Oaks and March 17 for Coastal Ridge.

The times are 10:30 to 11 a.m. each day. The locations are the ball field between Subic and Ramblon for Isenhower Terrace; playground at corner of Hero and Liberty for Isenhower Village; playground behind 161 Amberwood for Liberty Woods; Southern Oaks Community Center for Southern Oaks; and playground on Forest and West 8th St. for Coastal Ridge.

Come fly a kite

GMH will provide the kites. All you have to do is come

ready to have some fun 3 to 4:30 p.m., March 12 in the open space in the Liberty Woods neighborhood. Come into Liberty Woods on Austin Road. After passing the GMH Leasing Office, make a left onto Liberty Woods Drive. Look for field on the right.

Make a St Patrick's Day Craft

Little leprechauns are invited to make a holiday craft for St. Patrick's Day 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., March 17 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

GMH joins Easter Egg Hunt

Child and Youth Services is hosting the annual Easter egg hunt and GMH will be there too, 10 a.m., March 22. We will be hiding special prize eggs. Whoever finds our eggs can bring them to our table and will receive a special prize from GMH. Contact CYS if you have any questions about the actual Easter egg hunt. The event will be at the Youth Services football field located behind School Age Services.

Hunter

Join Neighborhood Huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your

huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH March 11 at Wilson Acres; March 13 at New Gannam; March 18 for New Savannah; and March 20 for New Callaway. The time for each event is 10:30 to 11 a.m. The location for the events are the GMH Leasing Office for Wilson Acres and New Gannam and New Savannah / New Callaway center for their huddles. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live!

Create a St Patrick's Day Craft

Little leprechauns are invited to make a holiday craft for St. Patrick's Day 4 p.m., March 13 at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

Let's go fly a kite

Come fly a kite with GMH 3:30 p.m., March 20 at the soccer field on North Perimeter Road, across from the old Youth Center. We'll provide the kites. All you have to do is come ready to have some fun!

Win a special prize

CYS is hosting the annual Easter egg hunt and GMH will be there too 10 a.m., March 22 at the Youth Services building 1289. We will be hiding special prize eggs. Whoever finds our eggs can bring them to our table and will receive a special prize from GMH.



Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-appropriated funds - Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

- Child and Youth Program Assistant* (entry skill, and target levels), \$10.39 to \$12.73 per hour
- Recreation Aid* - \$5.85 - \$7 per hour
- Operations Assistant* - \$5.85 to \$8 per hour
- Cook* - \$8.70 per hour
- Hotel Desk Clerk* - \$7 to \$7.50 per hour
- Cashier* - \$8.00 per hour
- Custodial Worker* - \$7.72 per hour
- Waiter/Waitress* (Trainee) - \$7.17 to \$8.17 per hour
- Food Service Worker* - \$7.17 per hour
- Bartender* - \$8.70 per hour

To search for these positions go to cpol.army.mil. click on Employment, click on Search for Jobs, at the bottom of the page under Search-Announcement type in SCNAFDW% then click on "Get Announcement."

This will narrow your search to the Stewart-Hunter non-appropriated fund vacancies. Instructions on how to apply are on each announcement. For federal employment

opportunities, go to www.usajobs.opm.gov.

For further information on employment opportunities contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Job Information Center at 767-5051. Our office is located on the 2nd floor (room 2013A) of building 253, Soldier Support Center, 55 Pony Soldier Avenue. The hours of operations are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Additional NAF vacancies are:

- Recreation Assistant*, (Lifeguard), \$9.75 to \$10.25 per hour (Must possess nationally recognized lifeguard, CPR, and first aid certifications), For Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: Aug. 29
- Child and Youth Program Associate Technology Lab instructor*, \$14 to \$16 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 12
- Recreation Assistant* (lifeguard),), \$11 to \$12 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 12
- Child and Youth Program Assistant*, \$10.39- \$12.73 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 17
- Small Engine Mechanic*, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 24

Did you know?

- You don't have to be a U.S. Citizen to be employed by NAF
- Hiring preference for eligible military spouses can be used multiple times for "flexible" status positions.

You do not lose eligibility until you are placed in a regular full or part-time position (NAF or Appropriated Funds).

- There is a hiring preference in NAF for involuntarily separated military members and their eligible Family members.
- Current NAF employees who have worked one continuous year in a position without time limits are eligible to be considered for Civil Service (GS/WG) jobs the same as APF employees who transfer to Army.
- Youth at least 16 years of age can be employed year round in certain NAF positions where conditions and duties meet all criteria

of Federal and state child labor laws.

- NAF offers a Management Trainee Program that is targeted to annually hire up to 20 recent college graduates who have bachelor's degrees in certain MWR specialties. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and will be used to fill Management Trainee Program vacancies as necessary. Go to www.armymwr.biz and click on Programs for more information.
- Eligible employees who move between Department of Defense NAF and APF positions can "port" certain benefits such as retirement, leave, etc.

The Civilian Personnel Activity Center

Employment opportunities for youth

The Human Resources Office recruits year-round to place ages 16 and up into non-appropriated fund positions. The office is presently recruiting for permanent flexible positions as **custodial workers; food service workers; laborers; waiters/waitresses (trainee); recreation aids; and lifeguards** (for summer months).

For further information on these or other jobs contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Job Information Center at 767-5051. Our office is located in room 2013A, Building 253, Soldier Support Center, 55 Pony Soldier Avenue. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ASE testing announced

Automotive Service Excellence certification testing will be administered at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield May 8, 13, and 15. Payment is due and the registration deadline is March 17.

To be eligible, you must be a Soldier who is in a maintenance or automotive military occupation specialty or is working on an associate degree in automotive technology; eligible to take the ASE on those dates. Soldiers must be on active duty at the time of the exams. Identification cards will be checked. No civilian ASE testing is provided at a DANTES test site at this time.

To register, Soldiers should see the following individuals for ASE registration forms and information before the registration deadline. For Stewart testing, contact Wendell Johnston or Olivia Penrod at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100, room 165. The phone number is 767-9569. For testing at the Hunter Army Learning Center, contact Chena Wilson or Ken Brown at the Hunter Army Airfield Learning Center, building 1290, room 21 and 22, respectively. The phone number is 315-6130.

When the registration form is completed and turned in, the \$32 registration fee and the cost of additional tests must be paid not later than March 17.

The first three tests are free for Soldiers with a mechanic MOS, but the Soldier still pays the \$32.00 registration fee. Recertification is not paid by DANTES; Soldier pays for all recertification tests and registration fee. Tests will begin promptly at 9 a.m. on the test days - examinees need to report at 8:45 a.m.

Study materials can be obtained at www.ase.com. Click on the following items; Prepare to Test; ASE Study Guides; then select the specific test.

College classes for WIT offered

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Hunter Army Airfield Education Centers are supporting our Warriors in Transition by offering accelerated daytime college courses. The classes are being presented by Central Texas College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Additional types of courses may be added in future terms as long as interest prevails.

To enroll, WTs must sign up through the GoArmyEd portal on line. Additional enrollment steps are required for ERAU. See your Soldier and Family Assistance education counselor, Bruce White, 767-3328, in building 87, Fort Stewart or Fay Ward, education center counselor located in building 1290 at Hunter. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also contact the counselors in building 100 at Stewart, 767-8331 for assistance.

College term slated

Spring term enrollment for on-post and distance learning classes are in progress. Please contact the college directly for course schedules.

Central Texas College term runs March 17 to May 10. For more information, call 767-2070 or 315-4090 at Hunter.

Columbia College term runs March 24 to May 17. For more information, call 767-5336 at Stewart, or 352-8635 at Hunter.

Embry Riddle term runs March 17 to May 18. For more information, call 767-3930 at

Stewart or 352-5252 at Hunter.

Savannah Tech term runs March 28 to June 11. For more information, call 408-2430.

Webster University term runs March 17 to May 15. For more information, call 767-5357 at Stewart or 354-0033 at Hunter.

Free college course offered

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides spouses of military personnel a tuition waiver for an initial classroom course with Columbia College at both the Stewart and Hunter education center sites. The active duty spouse does not have to take classes with Columbia College in order to be considered. This is a value of \$450, which is the cost of Columbia's three-credit hour classroom course. The program is an incentive for eligible students to embark on a degree program, while completing the financial aid process. In addition, Columbia College is offering two other scholarships for their students who have completed at least 15 SH with Columbia and are maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. Call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter for more information.

Spouse Scholarship offered

The National Military Family Association's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of uniformed servicemembers (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees, and survivors) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships range in amount from \$500 to \$1,000. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees and school room and board. Complete an NMFA survey, short answer questions, and an essay on the NMFA's Web site: www.nmfa.org/scholarship. Application deadline is March 15.

CTC scholarships available

The Central Texas College Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2008-2009 academic year. Interested CTC students have until March 31 to apply for any of the more than 120 endowed scholarships totaling over \$2.6 million. Scholarship opportunities are based on financial need as well as academic achievement. The online application for both the CTC Foundation and CTC Scholarship Fund for high school seniors is available at <https://ctcd.scholarships.nelnet.net>. This school is listed by Military Advance Education in the 2007 Top Colleges and Universities.

Family scholarship available

The Military Family Member Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization under the auspice of the Officers' Spouses' Club to provide merit-based scholarships. Applicants should be a spouse or unmarried Family member of an active duty, reserve or national guard, retired or deceased member of the U.S. military forces who will be attending accredited institutions pursuing vocational, associate, baccalaureate or masters degrees. Applications must be completed and mailed by March 12.

A special selection committee will award the scholarships in May. The decision will be based on academic records, transcripts, volunteer activities and an essay. Download the application at

thesteelmagnolia.org/Scholarships.html, or see an Army education counselor.

Apply for the Georgia HOPE grant

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial needs to attend vocational/trade schools.

The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center to speak with a counselor.

Educate while you wait

Get your certificate or diploma and pursue your new career during this deployment. Certificates for Web site technician, child care manager, and medical transcription are a few of the eligible programs offered by Savannah Technical College. Classes are available in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center and at the Liberty Campus on Airport Road in Hinesville.

For more information, call Savannah Tech in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 408-2430 or the Liberty Campus at 408-3024.

Take CLEP and DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90 for non-military examinees.

Take GED enrichment courses

Graduation Equivalence Diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Liberty County Adult Education Program at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. The courses prepare you to take the GED exam or refresh your skills. The courses are free of charge. You can select from one of a number of dates and times, which are 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in rooms 225 - 228. For more information, call 368-7322. To register for the classes, you must be present for both days of the process. Registration is first come, first serve. Call 368-7322 for complete details.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday of each month. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m., on the second and fourth Thursday.

Computer resources available

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center's learning center has 55 computers with Internet access available. You can use the center to complete your homework, research for your classes, access the Army's basic skills automated program, "Lifetime Library" or just stop in to check your e-mail. The center is open seven days a week.

The learning center is room 230, building 100. The hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday - Thursday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. The Hunter learning center is open 7:30 a.m.

to 8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. For more information, call 315-6130.

\$4500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, during a one-hour briefing at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, room 223.

Troops-, Spouse-to-Teachers briefings slated

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouse-to-Teachers Program, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600. Future meetings are scheduled for 11 a.m., March 19, April 23 and May 21 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For more information, visit online at www.tttga.net and www.sttga.net or call 1-800-745-0709 or 767-8331.

CES makes training available

The Civilian Education System provides the Army Civilian Corps self-development and institutional training (leader development) opportunities to develop leadership attributes through distance learning and resident training. If you are unfamiliar with CES, this link will take you to Army Management Staff College site for CES, or learn more online at www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces.

Webster offers deployed reduced online tuition

Soldiers enrolled in Webster's graduate classes will receive a reduced rate, while deployed. Contact Marsha Sands at sands@webster.edu, or 354-0033, DSN: 315-5906 for additional information. This school is listed by Military Advance Education in the 2007 Top Colleges and Universities.

Hunter Spouses' Club Scholarship offered

The Hunter Thrift Shop- Hunter Spouses' Club Scholarship Program will award several scholarships in amounts from \$200 to \$1000 to deserving students (dependent child or spouse) to further their education. Enter their Web site, www.hunterspousesclub.org, select scholarships and download the application for complete details. Applications must be postmarked by March 14.

Free college tutoring through March 18

Savannah Technical College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center is offering free "walk-in" tutoring for college students each Monday and Wednesday. Math support is available in room 186, 12:30 to 3 p.m. and English tutoring is conducted in room 253 from 4 to 6 p.m. You do not have to be enrolled in Savannah Tech. No appointment or pre-registration is necessary. For more information, call 408-2430.

Hunter holds African-American Heritage observance



Lance Davis

Elizabeth Eckford, guest speaker at the Hunter Army Airfield African-American Heritage Observance Feb. 28, held at Tuttle Army Health Clinic, captivated the room as she told a story of her youth, about trying to integrate into an all white school.

Lance Davis
Hunter Public Affairs

Just a little over 50 years ago, a 15-year-old black girl was on her way to Little Rock Central High School. She had anticipated joining other black students to attempt to integrate this then all white school. Instead, she was deterred by an angry, white mob. This young girl was Elizabeth Eckford.

In the midst of many obstacles and opposition, Eckford and eight other black students went on to integrate Central High and became known as the Little Rock Nine.

It took Eckford 39 years after that experience to publicly share her experience and story. “The dead can be buried but not the past,” she stated. “I want to refute those people who are revising history and minimizing our pain.”

Hunter Army Airfield’s Tuttle Army Health Clinic gave Eckford an opportunity to share her story at its 10th Annual Black History Month Celebration Program, which took place Feb. 28 under the direction of

the clinic’s head nurse, Theresa Johnson who also served as the mistress of ceremonies.

The program began with presentation of the colors by Herschel V. Jenkins High School’s Navy JROTC Color Guard and a soulful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner sang by Army Community Services employee, Yolanda Hingel.

The audience appeared to be in an atmosphere of total praise with the harmonious sounds of the Armstrong Atlantic State University Gospel Choir as the choir sang contemporary gospel and traditional spirituals. In addition, a fashion show sponsored by A Touch of Africa was presented.

Elizabeth Eckford captivated the room as she revisited her hard but momentous experience during the 1950s. She challenged the diverse members of the audience to take ownership of their communities.

“Each of us is important in shaping our community and should strive to find our own voice,” Eckford said.

Eckford also addressed to the use of the ‘n-word’, specifically its use by

black people. She explained, “There is power in language and when black people use this word in any way, this is racial self-hatred and authorization for others to use the word.”

When asked about the importance of her story from the Little Rock Nine, Eckford said, “It’s important now because of where we are.” She went on to say, “You can really understand where we are if you listen to those from the past.”

Presentations and remarks to Eckford were made by Lt. Col. Bobby W. Jones and Hunter Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Whitney, who were instrumental in arranging Eckford’s visit. Along with Yolanda Hingel, everyone helped close the occasion by singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

After 10 years of planning this annual celebration, Johnson was proud. “This started out small with the efforts of Tuttle Army Health Clinic,” she said. “Fortunately, this celebration has grown significantly over the years to include the entire Hunter Army Airfield Family.”

Fire safety education encouraged

Special to the Frontline

Fire Prevention Office

• The Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Fire Prevention offices would like to remind all facility managers that fire prevention/safety training is required by Regulation and includes the following:

- Fire extinguisher training
- Fire evacuation training
- Fire suppression systems training
- General fire safety training
- Fire drills
- Fire safety in the workplace training
- Facility managers training

• FS 420-11 Chapter 25 requires that every facility have a facility manager and that the facility managers or their designee(s) must attend training provided by the fire department.

If you are a facility manager or designee that has not had this training or have been a facility manager and not had the refresher training within a year, please contact the Fire Prevention Office to schedule training.

• Contact Fort Stewart Fire Prevention at 767-7006 or Hunter Army Airfield Fire Prevention at 315-6496 to schedule training.


Space Heaters

• With the upcoming cold weather upon us, more and more people are likely to use space heaters to keep themselves warm. The Fort Stewart Fire Dept. would like to offer some

helpful safety tips when dealing with space heaters:

- Make sure it is Underwriters Laboratory approved.
- Make sure it has a tilt over switch to shut the unit off if it gets accidentally tipped over.
- Never leave it plugged in and running unattended.
- Unplug the unit when the immediate area is unoccupied.
- Keep a 36-inch clearance from any combustible materials.
- Do not use extension cords with space heaters.
- The use of kerosene or ceramic type heaters is prohibited on Stewart.

If you have any questions concerning portable space heaters please contact the Fire Prevention Flight at extension 767-7706.




DES Spotlight
Director of Emergency Services

Special to the Frontline

William Hendrix was born in Bulloch County, Ga., March 3, 1965 and has lived in the small town of Brooklet, Ga. all of his life. He started in the fire service in 1981 as a volunteer in Brooklet, and began full-time work as a firefighter for the Statesboro Fire Department in 1984. He worked there until 1989 when he accepted a position with the Fort Stewart Fire Department. He has held the ranks of firefighter and inspector and presently holds the position of lieutenant. Some of the duties have included hazardous materials technician; confined space and high angle rescue technician; and vehicle and aircraft rescue technician.

Hendrix is also a member of the Fire Department Scuba Rescue Team. In 2006, he trained as an emergency medical technician. He always



William Hendrix

wanted to be a paramedic, so he started paramedic school in Savannah, attending class every Saturday for a year. He also completed 360 hours of clinical time with Memorial Hospital and MedStar Ambulance. Hendrix graduated in July, 2007 and received the David S. Bacon “Best of the Best” Award for finishing at the top of his class. After graduation, he began working as a part-time paramedic for Bryan County EMS in October, 2007.

He said he would not trade his time here at Fort Stewart for anything and as the time of his retirement grows closer, Hendrix said he looks back and is glad he did his part to protect the lives and property of the greatest fighting force on earth, the 3rd Infantry Division and the United States Army Family.

Justice Served

Sp. Ancus M.H. Bone, Headquarters, 4th BCT, convicted by Special Court-Martial; failure to report, disobeying a superior commissioned officer, disobeying a senior non-commissioned officer, wrongful possession of marijuana, assault on a

noncommissioned officer; reduction to private (E-1) and confinement for 10 months.

US District Court actions

Female, 31, charged with assault received confinement for 90 days.

Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of 1st Lt. Nathan R. Raudenbush, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. William R. Kern, HHC, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at 767-7085.

Dining facility opens for on-the-go troops



Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Bde. and FOB Q-West, cuts the ribbon to the new dining facility, Feb. 21.

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Bde Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – There is a new facility available to the Soldier on-the-go. The Dragon Express opened Feb. 21 on Forward Operating Base Q-West to provide quick meals to Soldiers primarily heading out on combat logistics patrols. The location of the facility was chosen due to its proximity to the Combat Logistics Patrol Readiness Center, where Soldiers receive their final security and convoy briefs before heading out on sometimes a day or two or even longer convoy missions. The next closest dining facility is located across several miles of airstrip.

“The leadership of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade realized after the success of the Dragon Grab ‘N’ Go there was a definite need to serve the Soldiers

on this side of the airfield,” said Maj. Dean Huard, 3rd Sustainment Brigade’s internal logistics officer. “I think you will all agree that it will be a morale booster for all but especially for the Soldiers that are preparing for their logistical patrols.”

Huard referred to the recently opened Dragon Grab ‘N’ Go, which is another facility to serve the on-the-go troops.

“I think the Grab ‘N’ Go is a great idea because it affords the Soldiers the opportunity to get quick access to meals at breakfast and lunch,” said Master Sgt. Louis Gholston, 3rd Sustainment Brigade supply and service operations sergeant major. “It cuts down on the time they have to utilize on a day-to-day basis to go down to the main dining facility.”

Though the Dragon Grab ‘N’ Go is only open for breakfast and lunch, the Dragon Express will be open for all meals and offers a variety of meal choices,

said Huard.

Awards were given to several Soldiers whose efforts contributed greatly to making this project a possibility and ultimately a success. Spc. Joe Sumner, Spc. Jenna McLean, both food supply specialists, and Spc. Joey Lambert, mailroom orderly for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, and also the designer of the two 10 by 10 foot Dragon Express signs, were all awarded Impact Army Achievement Medals.

“The signs took about 5 days to complete,” said Lambert. “I’m glad they recognized the hard work it took to free hand (draw) two big signs like that. It’s a real honor.”

According to Huard, the Dragon Express served over 2500 meals the first week it opened.

“We are off to a great start and plan to continue this mission,” he said.

Citizens of Salman Pak, al Lej celebrate reopening of road, checkpoint

Staff Sgt. Sean Riley
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Residents of Salman Pak and al Lej breathed a collective sigh of relief Feb. 29 as more than 150 Sons of Iraq, Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces leaders met to celebrate the reopening of the al Lej road, the main thoroughfare connecting Salman Pak and al Lej.

The road had been closed to civilians after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at a traffic checkpoint, killing seven Iraqi national policemen in May.

Since construction began more than two weeks ago on Combat Outpost Carver, home to Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, Soldiers had been assessing needs of local. Their number one concern: reopen the road to Salman Pak.

Coalition leaders, local ISF and SoI

members, began working together on a plan to restore and improve Checkpoint 600, where the attack had occurred and set the conditions for safe movement of civilians along the road.

Local leaders hope the checkpoint and road reopening will bring more people to the area.

“We have reopened the city of Salman Pak to Dura’iya, Kanasa, and al Lej – the whole Mada’in Qada can now move freely,” said Brig. Gen. Aamir, the 1st Brigade, 1st National Police commander, following the road’s ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Sheik Ali Hussein, the SoI leader for Salman Pak and al Bawi, opened his home for a luncheon attended by the more than 150 guests after the ceremony.

“We are finally to the point where we can come to an event and see Sunni and Shia sheiks working together to secure their country,” said the 1/15th Inf. Regt. Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Moore.



Courtesy Photo

Company B, 1/15th Inf. Soldiers place steel pickets at Checkpoint 600 near Salman Pak, Iraq, prior to the reopening ceremony attended by more than 150 Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces personnel and Sons of Iraq, as 1/15th Inf. Regt. Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Moore looks on, Feb. 29.

ACHIEVE SUCCESS

GO FROM GREEN TO GOLD

Use your previous Army experience, earn your college degree and start your new career as an officer and leader. The Army ROTC Green to Gold program will help you earn your credentials and achieve success.

To learn how to apply for a scholarship, visit www.armyrotc.com. Scholarship applications are due by April 1, 2007.

ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER



Photos by Sgt. Timothy Kingston

Sgt. Max Free, with the 67th Engineers, currently attached to the 3rd HBCT, watches as Sam, a military search dog, looks for weapons and munitions during an operation in the village of Kesra in southern Khanassa, Iraq, Feb. 24.

1/15 Infantry makes presence in Khanassa



Soldiers of Co. B, 1/15th Inf. Regt., conduct a foot patrol through the village of Kesra in southern Khanassa, Iraq.

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, visited the village of Kesra in southern Khanassa, Iraq, Feb. 24 to meet with local leaders.

Soldiers and leaders, including the commander of the 1/15th Inf. Regt., Lt. Col. Jack Marr, visited the village to discuss how Coalition Forces can support the area’s humanitarian and security needs.

“We have only done air assault missions in the area in the past,” said Maj. John Cushing, the 1/15 Inf. Regt. operations officer. “No one has been there for the reasons we were today. They had not seen Coalition Forces driving during the day since 2006.”

Cushing said Khanassa has been a hostile area in the past.

“We were unsure of how we were going to be welcomed,” he said. “But I think they were just as curious as we were.”

Cushing said the welcome was not what they had expected. Local leaders

greeted the unit by coming to the front gate of Combat Outpost Carver, home to Company B, 1/15th Inf. Regt., to escort the Soldiers to their village.

“After the meeting we had with about 25 different sheiks, we did a foot patrol through the town and people followed us,” Cushing said. “It was a warm welcome.”

Cushing said he was impressed by the village’s organization. Citizens were securing their community with guard positions without any help from Coalition Forces.

“They had a robust market,” he said. “It was probably better than any market I’ve seen in our (area of operation). It looked like they weren’t hurting for any supplies.”

Despite their stability, Cushing said there are still ways to assist the village. Plans are in the works to provide the village with water.

“We will continue to work with the sheiks,” Cushing said. “We want to set up the town for future relationships and improvements. This is a good example of how towns all over Iraq are starting to come together to force al-Qaeda out.”

1/15 Infantry builds progress, new combat outpost

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – When told that he and his Soldiers would be setting up the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team’s newest combat outpost with only a little more than three months left in their deployment, 1st Sgt. Arvento Collins was ready.

“We get orders and we execute,” said Collins, Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. “It wasn’t any different than any other task we’ve been given.”

Collin’s company inherited a piece of land located next to the Tigris River near al Duraiya, a small village near Salman Pak, that had been used by extremists as a safe haven since the 3rd HBCT arrived in March 2007.

First Lt. Ivan Eno, platoon leader for second platoon, Company B, said the area south of Salman Pak was sparsely populated with many abandoned homes and farms for enemy fighters to hide in.

A significant consideration was the size of the outpost; COP Carver is one of the largest outposts the 3rd HBCT has set up.

“The size of this COP is definitely the biggest challenge,” Collins said. “We had to change our security plan so that we

could have the right amount of Soldiers on guard. As with everything, security is always our number one priority.”

The 3rd HBCT engineers wasted no time enclosing the outpost’s perimeter with 12-foot concrete barriers. The 1/15th Inf. Regt. also hired 100 local workers to help fill sandbags, remove rubble, set up the barriers and lay concertina wire.

“They have done a good job so far,” said Master Sgt. Heath Pottiger, the operations noncommissioned officer for Headquarters Company, 1/15th Inf. Regt. “We showed them how we wanted the concertina wire hung and they have hung a three strand fence that was up to standard. They come here every morning and work hard.”

In addition to obtaining a reliable workforce, the local hires are strengthening Company B’s relationship with the community.

“The hires have helped build goodwill with the people here,” Collins said. “We have also provided water and some medical aid to the people, but the jobs we are providing really helps the community because it puts more money back into the local economy. We have met with many of the local sheiks and tribal leaders and they are glad that we are here.”

In addition to outside assets, 1/15th Inf. Regt. has its very own four-man building team dedicated to getting COP

Carver up and running.

Staff Sgt. Jorge Sanchez, an infantryman in Headquarters Company, is in charge of a crew that does most of the carpentry work and upgrades on the temporary housing at COP Carver.

“We are just trying to get the living areas up to standard before we go home,” he said. “If we can get the living areas squared away, the units that replace us will have an easier time getting established when they arrive.”

Sanchez admitted it can be hard work, but believes he and his Soldiers play an important role in making missions happen at the outpost.

“The busier we stay out here, the better it is for everyone,” he said. “It gives more Soldiers here more time to rest and more relaxing surroundings. It’s a challenge sometimes, but we get the job done.”

Pottiger said that the perimeter of the outpost is 90 percent complete. The interior development of the outpost still has a long way to go, in his opinion, but he feels his Soldiers are well ahead of schedule.

“We are going to get a lot done in a short amount of time,” he said. “We will have a water filtration system installed in the next day or two ... we will be installing showers next week. It’s getting better here.”

NCO Academy students 'leave to lead'

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – For two weeks, Iraqi Security Force soldiers and policemen participated in foot patrols, humvee combat patrols, rifle ranges and classroom lectures to increase their skills and ability to lead in combat.

More than 80 noncommissioned officers undertook the Task Force Marne Noncommissioned Officer Academy training at FOB Kalsu that concluded with graduation Feb. 25.

“You must now ‘leave and lead,’” said Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Berhane, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division command sergeant major, echoing a motto of the 3rd Inf. Div. NCO Academy at Fort Stewart. “As you return to your units you must constantly remind yourself what being a leader is about,” he said, addressing the course graduates.

Building a sense of leadership and a strong NCO corps in the ISF is a main goal of the academy.

“They want to learn the leadership skills,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Hooks, a 10th Mountain Division military policeman assigned as an instructor at the academy. “The NCO part of them is starting to come out.”

The challenging curriculum of the academy, welcomed by the eager Iraqi troops, is modeled after the Army’s Warrior Leaders Course.

“There are times when we have to beef up the training,” Hooks said. “A lot of times they don’t want to take breaks, they just keep asking for more.”

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Fowler, a senior NCO academy instructor, said the NCOs realize the benefits of the course and try to learn as much as they can while they have the opportunity.

“They’re very receptive in the classes,” said Fowler, from Romeo, Mich. “If they don’t understand something they never hesitate to ask.”

The students said the team-building environment taught at the academy is important against their country’s enemies. “It’s good to work as one team,” said National Policeman Fadhel Hakum. “One group means more power and we can work against our enemy.”

“The class is good because it helps me when I serve my country and my people,” said National Policeman Saed Atyaa. “We can help to pick up our country if we are down.”

Berhane encouraged the students to keep working hard and to train the Soldiers in their units the skills they learned. He stressed to always be ready to take the fight to the enemy. “The enemy is still out there ready to strike,” he said.



Courtesy Photo

Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Berhane, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major, congratulates an Iraqi national policeman upon his graduation from the Task Force Marne Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Feb. 25.

PROGRESS

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Sheik Ali Majeed Mushir Al-Dulaymi, leader of the SoI in Hawr Rajab, began meeting with Yousif Yaqoub Bekhaty, Rashid District Council chairman, and other council officials to request government assistance with reconstruction efforts.

“The present challenges we face are maintaining security, promoting economic growth and stability, while helping Hawr Rajab establish an efficient local government with supporting

entities,” said Capt. Gregory Curry II, commander of Troop A, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment. “It will not happen overnight, but it is happening one day at a time.”

Curry, of Walnut Creek, Ohio, said Troop A, 6/8th Cav. Regt. Soldiers are key players and a driving force behind various programs in Hawr Rajab.

His troop coordinates with Team A, Company B, 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, and the U.S. State Department’s Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The combined efforts of the groups, assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, mean residents of Hawr Rajab have access to resources for rebuilding their town.

Life is returning to normal with the improvements made possible by partnership between Coalition Forces, SoI, officials from the GoI and Iraqi Security Forces. Hawr Rajab is becoming a beacon of change and potential for sustainable economic improvements.

The following outlines current area economic initiatives.

The Microgrant program

More than \$50,000 in microgrants has been distributed to approximately 50 stores. The purpose of this program is to reopen businesses, jumpstart the economy and provide employment.

The effects are further-reaching than the local community. To stock and replenish stores, products are brought in from other areas - some as far as India and China - making Hawr Rajab a member of the global community.

Poultry Revitalization program

The program will provide starter chicks to poultry farms that were shut down due to violence.

Two types of chicks will be provided; one type will be raised for the purpose of producing eggs and the other for meat. First Lt. Michael E. Falk, platoon leader, Troop A, 6/8 Cav. Regt., said a processing plant in a neighboring town will process the poultry.

Faulk, a native of Clifton, Va., said the poultry industry of Hawr Rajab has

the potential to profit from commerce between itself, surrounding communities and other area markets. By mid-March 2008, eight chicken coops will be the first to receive a scheduled delivery of approximately 25,000 heads of young poultry.

The Seed Distribution program

The Agricultural Committee of Hawr Rajab coordinated a seed distribution program with Coalition forces in December 2007. It distributed more than 900 starter packets of seed as well as plastic to local farmers.

The starter packets contained seeds for cucumbers, egg-plants, bell peppers and tomatoes.

At present, success of the seed distribution is being measured by the 2nd BCT and the outlook for the program is positive.

School renovation projects

A girls’ school is currently undergoing extensive renovations to give the facility a much-needed facelift.

A similar renovation plan for the boys’ school is currently pending funding. Presently, there is a shortage of school buildings and boys attend classes in two shifts, with the morning reserved for primary school and afternoon for secondary school. Despite overcrowding at the schools, educators make due with their resources and school remains in session.

The Hawr Rajab Medical Clinic

This facility is being repaired and is scheduled for completion mid-March 2008. Medical personnel will be provided by the Iraqi Ministry of Health and will return prior to the completion of the facilities. In the meantime, limited services are provided by a local physician assistant.

Women’s initiatives

Women of the area formed a committee to discuss problems facing women and find solutions.

The group formed in February 2008 and has since brought to light a very serious issue. Many men have been killed by insurgents, leaving families without their traditional heads of households. Now a fund exists to care for families left behind by Sons of Iraq who paid the ultimate price for protecting their homes during the fight against al-Qaeda.

‘The Village of Hope’

With the revitalization of the area and need for skilled labor, a vocational school was constructed by U.S. Air Force construction engineers, who will also provide the instructors to staff it.

A large number of SoI will be retrained as electricians, carpenters and construction laborers.

This vocational school has been dubbed “The Village of Hope.” The program is currently in a final approval stage at 3rd Inf. Div. headquarters.



Staff Sgt. Michael Paredes

A Soldier of Troop A, 6/8 Cav. shares a light moment with Iraqi children, while fellow troopers assess the needs of an Iraqi poultry farm, Feb. 27.

224th Military Intelligence Battalion grows

Kaytrina Curtis
Hunter Public Affairs

Hunter Army Airfield's 224th Military Intelligence Battalion, XVIII Airborne Corps, activated Charlie Company, Feb. 22, in a ceremony at the Battalion headquarters.

According to Capt. Erin Hadlock, Co. C is the logical solution to the Army's increased demand for intelligence on the battlefield. Hadlock also said the 224th MI Bn. is continually refining and challenging its analytical process, and will help facilitate the future of aerial exploitation of 224th Military Intelligence Battalion's mission.

Hadlock is enthusiastic about taking the helm of the new company. "I'm excited," she said. "I am coming into some of the most extraordinary Soldiers that I have ever seen."

The unit originated as the mission operations platoon of Bravo Co., and its mission will focus on both Guardrail Common Sensor exploitation and exploring new analytical capabilities.

The new company will consist of three platoons encompassing linguists, analysts and the basic support functions the unit couldn't function without, Hadlock said.

The first platoon includes signals collectors and all administrative functions. The second platoon will include the signals intelligence analysts. Cryptologic communications interceptors will encompass the third platoon.

Each of the three platoons will possess distinctive mission expertise but will work together to provide a remarkable intelligence product that has already saved hundreds of lives and led to the identification and cap-

ture of innumerable mission targets.

Hadlock said the Soldiers of the former Co. B have accomplished some amazing missions and can be directly attributed to saving hundreds of lives in Iraq. "We can now explore so many more opportunities, being our own separate entity," she said.

The 224th Aviation Battalion (Radio Research) was activated in Saigon, Vietnam, June 1, 1966. The battalion and its four subordinate companies began with only 36 aircraft and 169 personnel, but quickly expanded in size.

In July 1967, the 224th aviation battalion and its subordinate units reached their highest combined strength of more than 1,000 personnel; within two years, aircraft assigned to the companies totaled more than 70.

On May 19, 1971, the battalion was redesignated as the 224th Army Security Agency Battalion. The 224th participated in 15 campaigns and received three awards of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, along with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. On March 3, 1973, the colors of the 224th Army Security Agency Aviation Battalion were transferred to Oakland, Calif. where the unit was formally deactivated.

On Dec. 1, 1980, the battalion was reactivated under a carrier Table of Organization and Equipment; June 14, 1981 was the formal activation date of the 224th MI Bn. (Aerial Exploitation) at Hunter Army Airfield.

Some of the commendations the battalion received are National Intelligence Agency Meritorious Unit Award, Association of Old Crows Outstanding Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, plus many others.



Kaytrina Curtis

Capt. Erin Hadlock accepts command of Co. C, 224th MI Bn., XVIII Airborne Corps (Aerial Exploitation), from Lt. Col. Stuart McRae, 224th MI Bn. commander during a ceremony Feb. 22, held at the battalion headquarters.

Soldiers distribute school bags in Jurf as Sakhr



Staff Sgt. Jason Barr

Soldiers of Co. A, 3/7 Inf., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. hand out school bags to children in Jurf as Sakhr, Iraq, Feb. 15.

1st Lt. Myles Frohling
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – If you were to walk down the streets of Jurf as Sakhr, Iraq, during a school day, you would see a large number of children walking to and from school. One thing you would not see is many children carrying school bags.

Seeing the need, Soldiers of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, distributed school bags to students in the area, Feb. 15.

First Sgt. Wayne Lawrence, from Carsville, Mo., first sergeant for Company A; Staff Sgt. Michael Navarro, from Clifton, N.J., a squad leader in 2nd Platoon, Co. A; and Spc. William Johnson, from Bellevue, Wash., a medic with 2nd Platoon, handed out school bags to children near the Tharir primary school in Snadeej.

"There is nothing better than working with our ISF (Iraqi Security Force) counterparts and making Iraqi children smile with a simple backpack," Navarro said.

While school bags were being handed out, 1st Lt. Ryan Daly, from Woodbridge, N.J., 2nd Platoon leader, spoke with local residents in the area. The general consensus is that security is good in the area, said Daly.

"Events like this help me realize how important it is for us to be here to protect the children in the area and build their trust in the CF (Coalition Forces)," said Pfc. Danial Taylor, of Rialto, Calif., a gunner with 2nd Platoon, Co. A.

4th BCT medics participate in casualty exercise in Iskan

1st Lt. William Perdue
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – With maps in hand, the medics discussed routes and accessible roads on Forward Operating Base Iskan, Iraq, developing their game plans as they waited for the competition to begin.

With the command, "Go!" the teams dispersed, starting the casualty exercise or "The Great Race," as some referred to it.

The medics of 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted the casualty exercise to train on soldiering and team-building skills. Seventeen medics participated in the exercise, Feb. 23.

There were 10 designated casualty collection points where the teams evaluated casualties. At each location, teams were given points for how well they evaluated casualties and the amount of time they took.

"This event is for the medics to know exactly where the CCPs are, where the medical supplies are, and to keep a sharp edge on their skills," said Lt. Col. Timothy Monahan, battalion surgeon. "Also for those medics who haven't treated too many casualties, this gives them the chance," he said.

The situations medics negotiated included a variety of injuries medics might see on today's battlefield, said Sgt. 1st Class Monty Ranisate, platoon sergeant for the Medical Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3/7th Inf. Regt. Some of the situations included mortars, multiple gunshot wounds and improvised explosive devices.

"The training was not labor or resource extensive," Ranisate said. "But this allowed the medics to receive training that is not only beneficial, but fun."

Medics went through proper procedures and assessments, including applying tourniquets and giving intravenous needles. After negotiating all lanes, the medics had to find their way back to the start point where they were given their times and place in which they finished.

The first team to finish was Spc. Matthew West from Duluth, Minn., and Spc. Matthew Borgen from Lynwood, Wash.

Each medic cheered as others completed the course and compared notes in the end. Once all medics finished, an after action review was conducted so they could discuss their strengths and weaknesses.

"Today's training was good," said Spc. Matthew Neely from Chicago, whose team came in sixth place. "We were able to treat several wounds. We got good physical training and it was a great team-building exercise."



1st Lt. William Perdue

Spc. Lucas Garcia and Spc. Leroy Ferguson, evaluate a casualty during a casualty exercise competition, Feb. 23, at FOB Iskan, Iraq.

Soldier reflects on journey leading to military career

Spc. Ricardo Branch
1st BCT Public Affairs

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq – A vehicle's upkeep is a long, arduous task. Often people repairing trucks have to put in early morning and late night hours just to keep the wheels rolling in Iraq.

"If you don't have us, nothing would roll," said Spc. Andrew Skipper, a mechanic from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry. "These trucks go through a lot of abuse in combat operations; we see it everyday during their maintenance."

Skipper is just one of 22 personnel who work to keep the military vehicles combat ready at Camp Korean Village.

"You work a lot of odd hours out here," he said. "Sometimes, you have to be up early in case work needs to be done on vehicles that have to roll out of the camp."

Skipper never figured years ago that he'd be working in the desert when he remembers his simple upbringing in Monroe, Ga.

Skipper, 22, grew up in a small football community, where Friday night games were a huge event for the city. He loved sports but decided toward the end of high school that he would join the military. He enlisted in the Army after his 18th birthday in 2004 as a mechanic.

Skipper always knew he was coming into the military, but if you ask him, he never figured he'd be in the Army.

"I always thought I'd join the Air Force because Top Gun was my favorite movie," he said. "The Army's a good thing though, I'm enjoying it."

He picked his job because it was one that he knew would get him dirty, and he'd enjoy.

"I like working with my hands," he said. "When I was



Spc. Ricardo Branch

Spc. Andrew Skipper, a mechanic from Co. F, 2/7 Inf. checks the transfer cable under a humvee at the company motor-pool at Camp Korean Village, Iraq.

younger, I loved working on cars, so I knew working on Army vehicles was for me."

Skipper said that because of his small size, there are many things in life he wasn't able to do. People supported his decision to join the Army but might have been a little unsure if he could succeed. Now that he's on his second deployment, Skipper has reenlisted to remain with the Army and do the job

he loves.

"It's a lot of work, but it's fun," he said. "We fix most of the vehicles on the camp and that's over 100 vehicles. Some days you have ten vehicles to work on, other days you may have only two." He said, "Every vehicle you fix helps take away some time here, and each truck we fix is one day closer to us going home."

CBRN Soldiers keep skills alive, train on NBC task

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Just because Soldiers are deployed to a war zone, training doesn't stop. That includes one of the fortunately-least busy jobs in the deployed Army – chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialists.

With that in mind, CBRN Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, gathered Feb. 25 to train on a piece of equipment that doesn't get used much – the M-17 Sanator.

"If a vehicle or even aircraft gets 'slimed' and we need to do a hasty decontamination the company would call me," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Bailey, from Ironton, Ohio, CBRN non-commissioned officer for 4/3rd Avn. Regt.

Bailey defined "slimed" as a vehicle or aircraft being exposed to any kind of liquid contamination.

The M-17 Sanator is basically a pressure washer with heater settings with two spray nozzle wands and the ability to set up as a shower for hasty decontamination of individuals, said Bailey.

The purpose behind this particular piece of equipment is to stop the spread of contamination and give the unit the chance to finish a mission before starting the process of thorough decontamination.

"This is basically just if they have a mission going on and they got slimed. We would spray them off real quick and they'd get right back into the mission," Bailey said. To combat the spread of the contamination, the CBRN Soldiers would meet the slimed vehicle or aircraft at a designated point. The CBRN Soldiers would then decontaminate mission-critical parts or pieces of the vehicle or aircraft, such as steering wheels and seats, as well as the Soldiers themselves if they were exposed, then send them back into the fight.

Only after the mission is complete would the equipment and Soldiers be fully decontaminated.

The training on the Sanator was designed to address two issues: make sure the equipment worked and train the 4/3rd Avn. Regt. CBRN Soldiers.

Even though the equipment is critical to the mission, it can often be forgotten, leading to problems.

"A lot of times this type of equipment gets put into a (shipping container) and doesn't get used," Bailey said. Because it uses water, there are multiple rubber seals that, if under- or over-used, can go bad.

The training covers operator maintenance and decontamination operations, said Bailey.

The CBRN Soldiers learn how to use the Sanator in advanced individual training, said Spc. Phillip Drwila, CBRN Soldier, Co. E, 4/3rd Avn. Regt., but there are Air Force versions and Army versions of the Sanator.

There are also older versions of the Sanator out there, said Bailey.

"They have different models of this (equipment) but it's basically the same function," said Drwila, from Elk Grove Village, Ill.

Going through initial training in AIT is one thing, but learning in the field on the specific piece of equipment the Army uses is quite another, said Spc. Precious Haynes, CBRN Soldier for Co. D, 4/3rd Avn. Regt., a native of Columbus, Ga. She said it gives her the experience she needs to perform her job not only now, but in the future.